

At a pilot project in Edmonston, Prince George's County, the researchers have come up with a method for treating incinerator wastes and, in the process, made significant contributions to the technology of waste resources management. The plant, which is able to sort reusable metals and glass from other ashes, utilizes only conventional equipment already in use by the minerals industry. This helps make the operation both reliable and available without long delays. In addition, unlike other re-

While not yet profitable, the procedure appears to be economically realistic, and it may prove more attractive as industry adjusts to using recycled materials and as cities run short of land under which to bury garbage. A second process, soon to be tested, will handle unburned refuse, recovering paper and plastics as well as metals and glass. This has the additional advantage of eliminating air pollution caused by burning.

The goal of the research is recovery of all materials in some usable form. The technological developments to date are promising. Employed on a broad scale, these processes could curb demand for untapped natural resources, limit the search for dumping and burning sites, and go a long way toward solving an increasingly serious problem for cities in search of new ways to get rid of their trash.

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